CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data storage apparatus comprising:
an interface configured to receive digital data; and
a data processor communicatively coupled to the interface and being configured to automatically receive digital data from the interface and cause the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device.

2. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a WORM storage device.

3. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further configured to generate one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.

4. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further configured to generate meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.

5. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further configured to
process a search query, and
in response to processing the search query, generate data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.

6. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further configured to process the search query against one or more indexes generated by the data processor.

7. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further configured to automatically process the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

8. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes facsimile data.

9. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes electronic document data.

10. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes printer data.

11. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:
the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and
the data processor is further configured to cause a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.

12. A method for storing data comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
receiving digital data to be stored; and
automatically causing the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device without human intervention.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.

14. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.

15. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:
receiving a search query,
processing the search query, and
generating data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.

16. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising processing the search query against one or more indexes.

17. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising automatically processing the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

18. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes facsimile data.

19. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes electronic document data.

20. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes printer data.

21. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and
the method further comprises causing a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.

22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for storing data, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
receive digital data to be stored; and
automatically cause the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device without human intervention.

23. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.

24. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.

25. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:
receive a search query,
process the search query, and

generate data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.

26. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to process the search query against one or more indexes.

27. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to automatically process the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

28. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data includes facsimile data.

29. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data includes electronic document data.

30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data includes printer data.

31. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein:

the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and

the further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to cause a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.